

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of configuring a communication link interface, the method comprising:
 setting a transmit width of a transmit portion of the link interface based on a
 usable transmit width; and
 setting a receive width of a receive portion of the link interface based on a
 usable receive width.
2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the usable transmit width is the lesser of
a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of the link interface and a
maximum receive width of a receive portion of another communication link interface.
3. The method as in claim 1 wherein the usable transmit width is received
from an external source.
4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the usable receive width is the lesser of
a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the link interface and a maximum
transmit width of a transmit portion of another communication link interface.
5. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:
 providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining the received
 usable transmit width; and
 providing a maximum receive width for use in determining the received usable
 receive width.
6. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:
 providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining a usable receive
 width of another communication link interface; and
 providing a maximum receive width for use in determining a usable transmit
 width of another communication link interface.
7. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

setting the transmit width to a default value prior to determining the usable transmit width; and
setting the receive width to a default value prior to receiving the usable receive width.

8. A communication link interface comprising:

a transmit controller to transmit data over a transmit portion of the link interface, wherein a width of data transmitted is set according to a value held in a programmable transmit width register; and
a receive controller to receive data over a receive portion of the link interface, wherein a width of data received is set according to a value held in a programmable receive width register.

9. The communication link interface as in claim 8, wherein:

the programmable transmit width register is programmable to hold a value indicating a usable transmit width; and
the programmable receive width register is programmable to hold a value indicating a usable receive width.

10. The communication link interface as in claim 9, wherein the usable transmit width is the lesser of a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of the link interface and a maximum receive width of a receive portion of another communication link interface.

11. The communication link interface as in claim 9, wherein the usable receive width is the lesser of a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the link interface and a maximum transmit width of a transmit portion of another communication link interface.

12. The communication link interface as in claim 8, further comprising:

a maximum transmit width register indicating a physical width of the transmit portion of the link interface; and

a maximum receive width register indicating a physical width of the receive portion of the link interface.

13. A communication link interface comprising:
means for setting a transmit width of a transmit portion of the link interface based on a usable transmit width; and
means for setting a receive width of a receive portion of the link interface based on a usable receive width.

14. The communication link interface as in claim 13, wherein the usable transmit width is the lesser of a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of the link interface and a maximum receive width of a receive portion of another communication link interface.

15. The communication link interface as in claim 13, wherein the usable receive width is the lesser of a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the link interface and a maximum transmit width of a transmit portion of another communication link interface.

16. The communication link interface as in claim 13, further comprising:
means for providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining the usable transmit width; and
means for providing a maximum receive width for use in determining the usable receive width.

17. The method as in claim 13, further comprising:
means for providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining a usable receive width of another communication link interface; and
means for providing a maximum receive width for use in determining a usable transmit width of another communication link interface.